

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS
MOVEMENT

SUMMARY: VALENTIN TURCHIN RECENTLY GAVE US HIS VIEWS ON
THE SITUATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE USSR AND
THE BEST TACTICS FOR THE USG TO ASSIST THIS MOVEMENT.
ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY WILL PROBABLY BE TRIED ON TREASON
CHARGES. NOVOSTI IS SAID TO BE PREPARING A BOOK ON "THE
BANNING OF ANDREY SAKHAROV." THE LATTER'S STEP-DAUGHTER
IS DEFINITELY GOING TO TRIAL. YURIY MNYUKH HAS RECENTLY
BECOME A KEY FIGURE IN THE ORLOV CSCE GROUP. THE WIVES
OF ORLOV AND GINZBURG ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO DOCUMENT THEIR
HUSBANDS' INNOCENCE. WE HAVE SOME DETAILS ON THE ARREST
OF UKRAINIAN WOODCARVER RUBAN BUT NOTHING AS YET ON THE
ARRESTS OF UKRAINIAN ORLOV GROUP MEMBERS MARINOVICH AND
MATOVSEVICH. GENERAL GRIGORENKO HAS BEEN
HOSPITALIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST VALENTIN TURCHIN RECENTLY
TOLD US HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT AT LEAST ONE OR
TWO OF THE ACTIVISTS ARRESTED EARLIER THIS YEAR MIGHT
BE TRIED, FOUND GUILTY OF FINANCIAL TRANSGRESSIONS,
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AND EXPELLED FROM THE USSR PRIOR TO THE JUNE CSCE
MEETING IN BELGRADE. IN HIS VIEW, SOVIET AUTHORITIES
MIGHT DO THIS TO LESSEN CRITICISM AGAINST THE USSR AT
BELGRADE. HE BELIEVES THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE
AUTHORITIES HAVE LARGELY ACHIEVED THEIR GOAL OF
SUPPRESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS LINKS
WITH THE WEST; HE THINKS THE AUTHORITIES ALSO REALIZE

THE COST TO THEM OF COMPLETELY CRUSHING THE MOVEMENT WOULD BE TOO HIGH. TURCHIN UNDERSTANDS THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION CANNOT MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO EACH SOVIET VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR. NEVERTHELESS, HE HOPES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ENCOURAGE CONGRESS AND PRIVATE GROUPS, PARTICULARLY SCIENTISTS, TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE USSR FOR MORE RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

2. A DISSIDENT SOURCE TOLD US THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT JAILED CSCE GROUP MEMBER (AND JEWISH ACTIVIST), ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY WILL NOW DEFINITELY BE CHARGED UNDER ARTICLE 64 (TREASON) OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE AND NOT UNDER ARTICLE 70 (ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITY). ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THIS IS A MOST UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT, BOTH BECAUSE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY UNDER ARTICLE 64 IS DEATH AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE A DECISION TO TRY HIM UNDER A LESSER CHARGE OR EVEN EXPEL HIM, GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TREASON CHARGE.

3. A WESTERN JOURNALIST IN MOSCOW HAS LEARNED THAT THE SOVIET PRESS AGENCY, NOVOSTI, IS PREPARING A PAMPHLET ON THE BANNING OF ANDREY SAKHAROV. THE JOURNALIST WAS UNABLE TO LEARN WHETHER THE PAMPHLET HAD BEEN PREPARED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS ONLY, OR WHETHER IT WAS THE RESULT OF A DECISION TO EXILE SAKHAROV.
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4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAKHAROV'S STEP-DAUGHTER WILL BE TRIED WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING LAWS ON EMPLOYMENT AND DISPOSITION OF SALARY. THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR A LONG TIME, FINALLY CONCLUDED ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. OUR SOURCE SAW THE DECISION TO PROCEED AS YET ANOTHER STEP IN THE CAMPAIGN TO HARASS SAKHAROV.

5. YURIY MNYUKH, A PHYSICAL SCIENTIST WHO LOOKS TO BE IN HIS MID-40'S, HAS, SINCE THE ARREST OF ORLOV AND GINZBURG, BECOME ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE ORLOV CSCE GROUP MEMBERS. ACTIVISTS OFTEN MEET IN HIS APARTMENT, AND HE IS NOW ONE OF THE CHIEF DISTRIBUTORS OF SAMIZDAT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HIS ACTIVITY IS IMPORTANT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AT A TIME WHEN IT IS IN DISARRAY BECAUSE OF THE ARREST OF SO MANY OF ITS MEMBERS.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WIVES OF ORLOV AND GINZBURG ARE ENGAGED IN PUTTING TOGETHER "DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE" REGARDING THEIR HUSBANDS' INNOCENCE. MRS. ORLOVA INITIALLY WAS VERY DESPONDENT OVER THE ARREST OF HER HUSBAND BUT IS ENCOURAGED NOW THAT BRITISH LAWYER MCDONALD HAS AGREED TO REPRESENT HER HUSBAND. GINZBURG'S WIFE IS MORE INURED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISSIDENT SCENE -- SHE WED HER HUSBAND WHILE HE WAS IN A PRISON CAMP -- BUT IS WORRIED THAT SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT HER TWO SMALL CHILDREN SHOULD GINZBURG BE GIVEN A LENGTHY PRISON TERM. SHE HAS GREAT HOPES THAT SOLZHENITSYN AND U.S. ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS SOMEHOW WILL FIND A WAY TO SAVE HER HUSBAND. THE MORALE OF BOTH WOMEN,NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUES TO BE BAD.

7. WE RECENTLY WERE TOLD THAT A UKRAINIAN WOODCARVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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PYOTR RUBAN, WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND SENTENCED A SHORT TIME AGO TO EIGHT YEARS IN CAMP PLUS FIVE YEARS IN EXILE. DISSIDENT SOURCES SAY THAT HIS CRIME WAS THAT HE ATTEMPTED TO CARVE A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL WITH THE IDEA OF SOMEHOW PRESENTING THE PLAQUE TO THE USG. FOR THIS, HE REPORTEDLY WAS FALSELY CHARGED WITH HAVING STOLEN THE WOOD HE USED AND FOR MAKING ORAL STATEMENTS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAQUE, OF AN ANTI-SOVIET NATURE.

8. AS YET WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECENT ARRESTS OF UKRAINIAN CSCE MEMBERS MARINOVICH AND MATOSHEVICH, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND MIKOLA RUDENKO'S WIFE HAS REASON (UNDISCLOSED) TO BELIEVE THAT HER HUSBAND WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN MAY OF THIS YEAR.

9. WE ARE TOLD THAT GENERAL GRIGORENKO IS SERIOUSLY ILL AND HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, HE SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD THAT HE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATION AND WAS FOUND TO HAVE A SERIOULS HEART CONDITION. TOON

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